

this problem. Canada signed the OAS's Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials on November 3, 1997, and is looking at action in other fora such as the UN Crime Commission. In addition to such efforts, which are aimed at controlling the supply of small arms, Canada is supporting practical on-the-ground projects to remove such weapons from regions of conflict, as well as exploring ways to promote effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants in post-conflict situations.

Canada has also played an active role in efforts to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. For example, Canada helped secure the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and lobbied other countries to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Canada ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention in September 1995 and has now established a National Authority within DFAIT to serve as the focal point for liaison with the Convention's international secretariat in The Hague. We are also working to strengthen the compliance provisions of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. As part of Canada's commitment to ensure responsible trade in goods and technology that might be misused to develop weapons of mass destruction, we are long-standing participants in several intergovernmental arrangements intended to co-ordinate and exchange information on exports of related technologies. These include the Australia Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee. To signal its concern for the grave implications for global non-proliferation and disarmament — as well as for regional security — posed by the nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan in May and June 1998, Canada has taken a number of steps, including a ban on military exports to these countries.

Export Control Policy and Implementation

The control over exports of our own military goods and technology is an important complement to Canada's broader arms control and disarmament efforts. Canada uses the definition of a "military good," as it is obliged by international agreement to do, from the International Munitions List, which was developed and is routinely updated by the Wassenaar Arrangement. Canada has adopted this list as its official control list, contained in Canadian law in the Export Control List (ECL) as Group 2 (Munitions). It lists goods that are "specially designed or modified for military use." Primarily civilian goods that may be sold to military end users (such as typewriters or civil-certified aircraft) were not included by Wassenaar (and, by extension, Canada), although strategically important goods with significant potential to enhance military capability are contained in the ECL Group 1 (Dual Use). Permits are required for the export of any military goods meeting the Wassenaar definition (such as a target pistol, a hunting rifle or a ruggedized radio), regardless of whether the foreign consignee is a private, non-military end user or a government and/or military end user.